

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 10, 2003

MPDC MAKES QUICK ARRESTS IN BRAZEN AFTERNOON SHOOTING IN MT. PLEASANT

The quick actions of an observant off-duty MPDC officer and the follow-up response by patrol officers and members of the Gang Intervention Partnership are being credited with the speedy apprehension of three suspects in a brazen shooting Thursday afternoon on the streets of Mt. Pleasant. A 20-year-old Northwest DC man was killed and an on-duty Metrobus driver was injured during the incident, which began just before 2:30 pm on October 9. An off-duty Fifth District officer was sitting at an outdoor café in the 3100 block of Mt. Pleasant Street, NW, when he heard the sounds of gunfire and observed subjects running from the area, some of them engaged in a running gun battle. The officer immediately called for assistance and gave chase. Additional officers quickly responded to the scene, and four subjects were immediately taken into custody and a handgun was recovered. MPDC members of the Gang Intervention Partnership also responded and obtained information that led them to 17th and P Streets, NW, where they took a fifth subject into custody and recovered a second handgun. The next morning, the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch charged a 27-year-old Northwest DC man with Murder I While Armed. Two juveniles have also been charged in the case: a 16-year-old DC male, with Assault With Intent to Kill, and a 17-year-old DC male juvenile, with Carrying a Pistol Without a License.

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2353>

① In response to increases in gang violence over the summer, Chief Ramsey and other DC leaders announced the creation of the Gang Intervention Partnership in early August. For more information on the Partnership, go to:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2246>

MAYOR UNVEILS LEADING-EDGE PUBLIC SAFETY WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Mayor Williams this week announced the completion of a significant upgrade in the District's public safety wireless communication system. The new network gives the District's Police and Fire/EMS departments one of the most complete systems of public safety radio coverage in the nation, with expanded wireless radio coverage across the city and a new capacity to for emergency agencies to communicate with one another. The Mayor was joined by Chief Ramsey, DC Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson, Chief Technology Officer Suzanne Peck and various elected officials in unveiling and demonstrating—the new system. One of the problems with the old radio system was “dead zones”—or areas of the city and certain buildings where radio communication was sporadic. During the announcement, Mayor Williams communicated via the new radio system to MPDC and Fire/EMS personnel located in many of these previous dead zones. Chief Ramsey noted that, for the MPDC, the new system provides improved clarity, better security and, perhaps most importantly, the ability to communicate directly with the Fire/EMS Department on common radio channels—a feature that will be critical during joint responses to major events. The wireless network upgrade was funded largely by federal emergency preparedness funds.

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2349>

4D MEMBERS ARE HONORED AS DEPARTMENTWIDE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

This past August, Officers Travis Barton, Keith Batton and Manuel Benites were on patrol when they heard sounds of gunshots in the area of 13th and Allison Streets, NW. The officers observed a subject leaving the crime scene on a bicycle and chased him onto the grounds of McFarland Middle School, where he was apprehended. While being chased, the subject was observed throwing a handgun to the ground. The officers returned to the 1300 block of Allison Street, NW and located a transgender individual who had been shot in the back and stabbed in the arm. The victim was transported to an area hospital, but succumbed to the injuries and was pronounced dead. A chrome-plated 9mm handgun was recovered from the suspect, who was subsequently charged with Murder I While Armed. These members' quick response, fast action and knowledge of the rules of evidence allowed them to quickly close a homicide case and recover physical evidence that will be instrumental in the successful prosecution of this case. For their outstanding actions, Officers Barton, Batton and Benites were recently honored as the Departmentwide "Officers of the Month." The 4D officers were among 21 MPDC members recognized during the October CHAMPS Awards ceremony.

MPDC SEEKS POSSIBLE VICTIMS OF CONFIDENCE SCHEME TARGETING SENIOR CITIZENS IN DC

Recently, detectives from the Fifth Police District arrested two men and charged them with Conspiracy to Commit Fraud in connection with a confidence scheme aimed at senior citizens. The two men are currently charged in only one case; however, the MPDC is investigating some 30 similar cases. The confidence scheme involves one of the suspects calling the intended victim claiming to be a relative, such as a nephew. The suspect then states that he has been involved in an accident and needs money. If the victim, believing the suspect to be a relative, agrees to lend money to the suspect, the suspect sends an accomplice to get the "loan." Investigators are attempting to identify and locate other individuals who may have been victims of such a scam or have been contacted by subjects with a similar false story. Anyone who was a victim or who was contacted by someone telling a similar tale is asked to contact the MPDC at (202) 727-9099.

NEWS & NOTES

Arson Task Force Update. With the addition of an early morning fire in Northeast DC on October 8, the regional arson task force is now investigating a total of 30 arsons that are similar in nature. Details, including a sketch of a possible suspect, at <http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/PublicSafety/Fire/arson.asp?h=20&s=60&n=40&l=30>

Bicycle Registration Events. In an effort to put the brakes on stolen bikes in DC, several police districts will be hosting bicycle registration and open house events during October. Details at <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2351>

Smooth Operator Awards. Eight MPDC members were among more than 100 police officers from throughout the DC region who were recognized this past week for outstanding work during this year's Smooth Operator campaign targeting aggressive driving. Congratulations to Detective John Ashley (7D), Master Patrol Officer James Greene (3D), and Officers Dennis Fair (2D), Danella Santos (2D), Pedro Rios (3D), Stephen Pristoop (7D), Sherman Roberts (7D) and Richard Carter (SOD). Details on Smooth Operator at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.htm>

① Information on all of the award-winning officers is available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/10.shtml>

① CHAMPS—or Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service—is a monthly awards ceremony sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. This month's ceremony was held October 1 at the Holiday Inn Capitol at Smithsonian, in Southwest DC. For background on CHAMPS go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/champs.shtml>

① The MPDC's fourth annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2003, at 7 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall. For details, call (202) 727-3778.

① This is just one of numerous swindles that con artists try to carry out on unsuspecting victims, many of who are senior citizens. For tips on how to protect yourself and your relatives, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/avoidswindles.shtml>

① October is Crime Prevention Month. Learn about the information and resources available through the National Crime Prevention Council at: <http://www.ncpc.org>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 10/10/03)

- 2003: 195
- 2002: 190
- % Change: +2.6%

Arrests (week ending 10/4/03)

- Total: 828
- Drugs: 148
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 23
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 37

Firearm Recoveries (as of 10/8/03)

- Total: 1,471
- October: 26

Traffic Fatalities (as of 10/10/03)

- 2003: 54
- 2002: 43
- % Change: +25.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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